

LYGODIUM MICROPHYLLUM, ANOTHER FERN ESCAPED IN FLORIDA.—Two species of climbing ferns (*Lygodium*) have been reported from Florida. *Lygodium palmatum* (Bernh.) Swartz is a native of the eastern United States that has been recorded from Florida by several authors, including Chapman,¹ Small,² Correll,³ and Spurr.⁴ For each report, however, some doubt has arisen, and its status in our flora has remained unsatisfactory.

The other species, *Lygodium japonicum* (Thunb.) Swartz, is all too evident in many areas. It is an introduction from eastern Asia that has spread aggressively into moist woods and fields in most parts of Florida and adjacent states. It is largely lacking in southern Florida however. The University of Florida Herbarium has a March, 1932, collection from Dade County by the late Mary Diddell, "escaped on vacant lots, Miami," but it has not persisted on any scale, if at all, in that area. More recent collections and field observations show the southern limits to be near Tampa Bay and in Highlands County.

The above range data take on a special interest since the University of Florida Herbarium has recently acquired several collections of an escaped *Lygodium* from Martin County, in southeastern Florida: "On mainland opposite Jupiter Island" and "Cabbage Palm Hammock on mainland, opposite Jupiter Island." (both *L. D. Ober*, 15 June 1965) and "Jonathan Dickinson State Park. No fruiting plants." (*Carl W. Campbell*, 12 Nov. 1966). These represent an apparent recent introduction that is established and spreading in the area, *Lygodium microphyllum* (Cav.) R. Brown. This species is found throughout the Old World tropics from Africa to Australia, Asia, and Melanesia. It has long passed under the name *Lygodium scandens* (L.) Swartz, but Holttum⁵

¹ Chapman, A. W. 1897. *Flora of the Southern United States*, p. 635.

² Small, J. K. *Flora of the Southeastern United States*, 2nd Ed., p. 5. 1913.; *Ferns of Florida*, pp. 47-48. 1931; *Ferns of the Southeastern States*, pp. 336, 337, 339. 1938.

³ Correll, D. S. 1938. A County Check-List of Florida Ferns and Fern Allies. *Amer. Fern J.* 28: 46-48.

⁴ Spurr, S. H. 1941. Notes on the Distribution and Habits of the Ferns of Northern Peninsular Florida. *Proc. Fla. Acad. Sci.* 5: 64.

⁵ Holttum, R. E. 1959. *Flora Malesiana*, Series II, Vol. 1, part 1, pp. 44-51, fig. 5-8.

has recently rejected this name. It is worth noting that Holttum refers to this plant as "sometimes a weed," and indicates various disturbed habitats for it.

A clue to the origin of these escaped plants is given by a collection "in nursery, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co." (R. A. Long, 11 Feb. 1958). This is immediately south of the Martin County area. No doubt, Palm Beach County would yield colonies of the species if carefully searched.

Since Holttum gives detailed descriptions and illustrations of *Lygodium japonicum* and *L. microphyllum*, there is little need to discuss their differences at length here. *Lygodium japonicum* has palmate to pinnately deeply lobed sterile leaflets which are not articulate at the bases. *Lygodium microphyllum* has articulate sterile leaflets that are unlobed or but infrequently lobed. The leaflets bear a superficial resemblance to those of *Nephrolepis cordifolia*.

It will be very interesting to watch the future spread and behavior of *Lygodium microphyllum* in Florida. It has presumably undergone several colder than average winters, so it should be able to maintain itself in this climate. Assuming it spreads out to overlap the range of *L. japonicum* to the northwest, we will be able to witness an experiment in competition between two closely allied and ecologically similar species.—JOHN BECKNER, *Department of Botany, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32601*.

Notes and News

FERN FORAY RESERVATIONS for September 1 and 2 should be made through Dr. Clara Frederick, Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio 43078. You may also write directly to the Holiday Inn Motel, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601. In either case, please write to Dr. Frederick, stating what reservations you have made or wish to make and whether you need transportation or can provide it for other participants. Rates at the motel are \$9.00 for single rooms, \$11.00 for double-bed rooms, and \$14.00 for twin-bed rooms.

SOCIETY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS should be made with Dr.